

PLANES FOR UKRAINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise. And I rise today with a very simple message: Those who believe that if we leave the world alone, the world will leave us alone are entirely wrong.

Madam Speaker, the world would find its way to our door as it has done so now with Ukraine.

I had the honor of hearing the President of Ukraine speak this morning, and if there is something I came away with without question it is this: It is that this war is about more than Ukraine. It is about freedom-loving people wherever they may be. It is about people who will not tolerate seeing women and babies being killed live on television. It is about a belief that if you can do something to end an injustice, you have to do it.

This is why I rise today to say, Madam Speaker, that if there is a vote for planes for Ukraine, I will vote to support planes for Ukraine. And I will do so because I believe that this is needed for their defense.

While some would say: But the defense currently would not be planes because they don't have to fight planes—that they are using long-range projectiles to bomb Ukraine—my point is this: Let's not wait until the skies over Ukraine have been darkened with Russian planes before we send the help that they need.

I don't mind the world knowing that we are part of this. I don't think we can allow a standard to be set such that in the future the precedent is if you send in planes you are escalating. I think if we send in planes, we are meeting the challenge that is necessary to defend Ukraine.

Again, those who believe that if we leave the world alone it will leave us alone are entirely wrong. This is about liberty and justice for all; government of the people, by the people, and for the people of Ukraine and the rest of us as well. This is about freedom-loving people wherever they may be.

If there is a vote for planes, then I will vote for planes for Ukraine.

THE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, when I travel around the Sixth Congressional District of Virginia, folks regularly share their struggles with me in the face of President Biden's inflation crisis, economic crisis, and energy crisis.

They tell me that their hearts sink when they check out at the grocery store and see the price on the screen tick well past what they used to pay to feed their families. They tell me they dread going to the gas station because every time they drive by, they see

prices getting higher and higher. They pray their car doesn't break down because they can't afford to fix it or replace it given the rise in the cost of car parts.

They worry about their kids hitting a growth spurt because new clothes are just getting too expensive. And they tell me the disappointment they felt when they let their kids know that the vacation they had been looking forward to had to be canceled or scaled back because the rising cost of flying and lodging made it nearly impossible.

Madam Speaker, folks in rural parts of this country are struggling, and 40-year high inflation rates serve as a tax on all Americans. It is unacceptable that the soaring price of goods cost the average family \$3,500 last year.

If Members of Congress truly want to provide relief to their constituents, then they must rein in spending and cut taxes to get our country's economy back on track.

CAVE SPRING BASKETBALL

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Cave Spring High School boys' basketball team from Roanoke, Virginia, for winning this year's class 3 State championship. Following a near perfect season, the Cave Spring Knights were crowned sole State champions this year after being named co-winners with Lakeland in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic.

From the moment last week's final tipped off against the Petersburg Crimson Wave, it was a great showing from both teams.

After an impressive second-half comeback by Petersburg, Cave Spring was down by 2 with only 1 minute and 45 seconds left on the clock. A quick Knight's basket tied the game, and the Crimson Wave took possession as the seconds passed by. But a timely steal by Cave Spring's senior guard, Owyn Dawyot, gave the Knights one last chance.

As Dawyot headed toward the basket, he was fouled sending him to the free-throw line with just 3 seconds left. After missing the first shot, the pressure was on, but he kept his cool and made the second shot for the final score of the game.

The Knights prevailed, winning 76-75, marking the program's fifth State title and the second under Coach Jacob Gruse.

Congratulations to Cave Spring on this hard-fought win. It was well-earned.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA'S LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR WINSOME SEARS

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Women's History Month, we recognize the list of women who have contributed to moving the United States forward over the past 244 years.

I rise today to recognize one trailblazer in particular, Virginia's current Lieutenant Governor, Winsome Sears. Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Lieutenant Governor Sears moved to the United States at the age of 6 and has since dedicated her life to serving others and her country.

Outside of politics, she ran a homeless shelter, provided ministry to prisoners, and spent 3 years wearing our Nation's uniform in the Marine Corps. It was also an honor to serve with Lieutenant Governor Sears in the Virginia House of Delegates.

Since entering public office, Lieutenant Governor Sears has served as a Presidential appointee to the United States Census Bureau, as a distinguished member of the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans to the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs, as the vice president of the Virginia State Board of Education, and, as I mentioned, as a delegate in the Virginia General Assembly.

Upon her swearing-in on January 15 of this year, she became the first female veteran to serve as Lieutenant Governor of Virginia and the first Black woman to hold statewide office in the Commonwealth.

We applaud the Lieutenant Governor's lifelong accomplishments and thank her for her service to her community, her Commonwealth, and her country.

HONORING ROSA LUCAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a local leader in public health, an exceptional community advocate, my constituent, and my friend, Rosa Lucas.

I first met Rosa during my freshman year at UCLA in 1991 while I was working at a farmworker health clinic. Ever since, I have admired her integrity, humility, selflessness, and passion for justice.

Rosa's story begins in Los Angeles, California, December 7, 1945. She spent her childhood in Beverly Hills before studying at UCLA-Berkeley and UCLA. In 1968, she graduated UCLA with her bachelor's in Spanish languages and literature. Shortly after, Rosa launched her career as a charge nurse of neurosurgical intensive care at the UCLA Health Sciences Center, eventually leading her to become a certified nurse practitioner in 1975.

Ten years later, she settled in our desert and began her work in the Coachella Valley.

Throughout her career, Rosa has worked to serve the poor, the marginalized, and the underserved. She has provided care to those most in need at rural and farmworker clinics like El Progreso del Desierto, Santa Rosa Del Valle Medical Group, Desert Hot Springs Arthritis and Medical Clinic, and the Borrego Springs Community Health Foundation. Now she works for Eisenhower Health Urgent Care Centers.

Rosa truly embodies what it means to think globally and act locally. She has devoted her life to addressing health disparities in our valley and has made it her goal to expand access to healthcare for our most vulnerable.

As a physician, I have seen her dedication to this mission firsthand. In the summer of 1996 during a summer fellowship as a medical student, Rosa taught me the well-child exam. I will never forget her passion to care for at-risk newborns, and I knew then that she would be a great partner in the fight for health and social justice.

Sure enough, in 2007 when I returned home from medical school, we saw patients together and provided free medical care to the poorest farmworker communities with the Flying Doctors.

Together, we joined the founding board of directors for a new nonprofit called Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine which is the only free clinic in the Coachella Valley that provides free healthcare to the medically underserved. In fact, we started the street medicine program and launched that in order to take care to the people and to the homeless under bridges, at the parks, and in the homeless camps. Wherever they find themselves, we took care to them, and she still does that.

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In fact, Volunteers in Medicine was the first in the valley to implement the street medicine model during the pandemic. We took tests directly to our most vulnerable populations, including farmworkers and the homeless. This model later grew into a collaborative approach to vaccinating at-risk populations at work sites, schools, churches, and local trailer parks.

On top of that, Rosa feeds the hungry. She battled food insecurity throughout the pandemic, partnering with local organizations to coordinate food delivery for the hungry and the food insecure, partnering with local promotoras organizations.

Rosa's compassion and incredible service have touched every corner of our communities. She has transformed care delivery in our desert and opened doors for many.

As a member of the clinical faculty at CSU San Bernardino, Palm Desert, and the UCR School of Medicine, Rosa has helped shape a new generation of healthcare providers. She has inspired our communities' young people on the advisory boards for the Head Start programs at Desert Sands Unified School District and Coachella Valley Unified School District.

For her outstanding service, Rosa has received numerous accolades, including the 2019 Senior Inspiration Award from Riverside County, and most recently, the 2021 Hometown Heroes Award from the city of Coachella.

Rosa is relentless in her advocacy and never takes no for an answer when advocating for the medically underserved and her patients.

Rosa has been an incredible adviser to me and has had a profound impact on the entire Coachella Valley. In fact, I respect Rosa because she delivers. She delivers her heart, she delivers her mind, and she delivers food. She deliv-

ers tests, she delivers vaccines, and she delivers healthcare with every inch of her soul and body. Rosa delivers herself for the people.

We are all indebted to Rosa because she is the person who has led the charge for so many years and has been a consistent voice. When there was none, there was Rosa. When there was none, she provided care and delivery.

On behalf of California's 36th Congressional District, I thank Rosa for her incredible service. I am so privileged to have her in my life, and I am honored to call her a friend.

HOLDING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ACCOUNTABLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. HICE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the American taxpayer to clarify that the Federal workforce exists to serve them, not the other way around.

During the COVID pandemic, Americans faced uncertainties as businesses literally struggled to survive. While these Americans wondered whether or not they would receive the next paycheck, there was one group, Federal employees, who did not face these type of concerns. To the contrary, since President Biden took office, there has been a nonstop effort to ensure that Federal workers are treated like a protected, privileged class.

Democrats like to talk about the need to rehabilitate Federal workers after the Trump administration's so-called war on civil servants. That is absolutely ridiculous. The Democrats' road to recovery apparently includes shielding government workers, workers whose positions exist to serve the American people. The Democrats want to shield government workers from accountability; from any concern of discipline; from the obligation to actually perform the duties that they were hired to do; and from their duty to serve the elected Representatives of the people.

But guess what? Despite the claims of trauma during the Trump administration, Federal workers were happier during his time in office. Why? Simply because the Federal workers were held accountable.

Let's face it: No one likes working in a situation where you can't do anything about poor performers, where you can't do anything regarding people who simply refuse to actually do their jobs. The consequences of that type of environment is that the actual conscientious workers have to pick up the slack, which only adds to their own workloads and creates an extremely toxic work environment.

Nevertheless, Democrats want to continue the false narrative of an abused Federal workforce. They want to curry favor with the core union constituency by looking for as many ways as possible to increase pay and bene-

fits, all under the name of making the Federal Government a model employer.

But model employers hold their workforce accountable. Model employers put the customer first. In this case, that is the American taxpayer. We don't hear any of this from the Democrats, but you do from the Republicans.

Today, along with a number of my Republican colleagues, I am introducing the Accountable Federal Employees Act, which codifies a suite of executive orders that President Trump issued, but, unfortunately, President Biden has repealed.

This bill includes a number of commonsense provisions, such as making sure Federal employees actually do their jobs rather than spend time on union activities. It makes sure that poor performers are held accountable. That is something even Federal employees say is sorely lacking in the workplace. It creates a process to ensure collective bargaining agreements are negotiated in a timely manner and in a way that looks out for the best interests of the American taxpayer. It makes sure that Federal employees in policy-making roles actually work to help implement the policies of the people who were actually elected to office.

This bill represents a platform of sanity and fairness in civil service policy and in the workforce of the Federal Government. Frankly, any serious effort to modernize the Federal workforce has to start with ensuring the best possible level of service for the American people. That is what this bill does. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.

MAKING HEALTHCARE MORE AFFORDABLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate our Nation's actions to make healthcare more affordable. Together, we provided more resources for the CDC and State and local health departments to ensure they are prepared and equipped, implementing lessons learned from the pandemic.

We confronted our most urgent health crises while taking strides to reduce unacceptable health disparities. We invested in our veterans, focusing on the mental health needs of those who served our Nation.

We strengthened biomedical research, providing more funding for the National Institutes of Health and establishing the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health to cure the previously incurable. We protected the safety of our food and medicine by funding the FDA.

The pandemic taught us that no one is safe unless everyone is safe. That is why we increased funding for global health, to work to prevent the next pandemic.